



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
**September 25, 2007**

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**2007 San Bernardino County Homeless Census and Survey Reveals an  
Increase in the Number of Homeless**

(San Bernardino, CA) On Tuesday, September 25, 2007, Community Action Partnership of San Bernardino County (CAPSBC) and Applied Survey Research (ASR) made a presentation to the San Bernardino Board of Supervisors on the findings of the 2007 San Bernardino County Homeless Census and Survey. A press conference was also conducted to answer questions from the media.

San Bernardino County used an innovative methodology developed by ASR of Watsonville, California to train homeless to count and survey homeless residents of San Bernardino County. This methodology has been successfully implemented across California including Los Angeles, Santa Clara, Mendocino, Santa Cruz, and Monterey Counties.

The 2007 San Bernardino County homeless sheltered and unsheltered count was accomplished by canvassing 244 census tracts throughout San Bernardino County in the early mornings of February 27<sup>th</sup> and 28<sup>th</sup>, 2007. The 2007 study found that there were at least 7,331 homeless persons, a 39.1% increase compared to the 2003 count of 5,270. Of the 7,331, 17% were in shelter facilities and 83% were considered unsheltered. Approximately 31% (1,887) of the homeless street population was living in vehicles such as cars, campers, vans, etc.

Demographically, the largest percentage of homeless survey respondents were Caucasian (45%), African American (24%), Hispanics/Latino (22%), American Indian or Alaskan Native, (2%), Asian or Pacific Islander (2%) and multiple racial or ethnic groups (5%). The two largest age groups were 41-years old (31%) and 31-40 years old (27%).

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“CAPSBC has invested considerable resources in conducting this study. We believe this study will ensure San Bernardino County’s compliance with the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development’s (HUD) mandate of conducting a bi-annual count of the sheltered and unsheltered homeless population, and enable the continuance of Federal funding for homeless services under the Continuum of Care Application.”, said CAPSBC Chief Executive Officer Patricia L. Nickols. “More importantly, the result of this study will serve as a foundation in the development of a 10-year plan to end homelessness in San Bernardino County”.

The study also reveals that of the 695 homeless persons surveyed, 71.9% were homegrown while 10.6% came from Los Angeles County, 6.6% out of state, 6.3% from Riverside County and 4.5% from other counties in California. Approximately 50% of homeless survey respondents indicated they had been homeless only once within the past 12 months, 16% of homeless survey respondents had been homeless six or more times in the past 3 years and 45% percent of all respondents had been homeless for one year or more.

“CAPSBC believes there are several specific actions that must be undertaken on the issue of Homelessness in our community”, said Al Twine, CAPSBC Board Chair. “CAPSBC’ s policy recommendations are focused on: 1) the development of a 10-year plan to end homelessness, that should begin by conducting needs and gaps analysis on homeless services, bed inventory and funding; 2) formal commitment of leaders from the County, the Cities and Community Organizations to the collaboration that will include commitments of dollars and human resources, along with joint planning, grant writing and other fundraising efforts; and 3) San Bernardino County’s Continuum of Care application must be comprehensive and consistently excellent to win every available dollar . Once an agency is awarded a contract for services, it must have the support of local authorities to ensure a housing development or service center can be built in the timeframe mandated by the terms of the funding agencies.”

CAPSBC is a private non-profit public benefit corporation and is one of the 1,100 Community Action Agencies nationwide dedicated to assisting low-income individuals and families to become stable and self-reliant. Since 1997, CAPSBC has been instrumental in bringing over \$40 million in funding for 50 projects to assist the homeless as well as coordinating and implementing the 2002 and 2007 San Bernardino County Homeless Census and Survey.

For more information please contact Community Action Partnership of San Bernardino County at (909) 723-1500 or visit [www.sbcounty.gov/capsbc](http://www.sbcounty.gov/capsbc)

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